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Claim Amendments

1. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a mobile switching center that allows a mobile user of a mobile communication device to assign one or more members to a call waiting feature group that is employable by the mobile switching center to provide a call waiting feature to the mobile user for an incoming call;

wherein the call waiting feature comprises a default call waiting indication;

wherein the mobile switching center gives preferred treatment to the one or more members of the feature group;

wherein the mobile switching center employs a DTMF digit pattern received from the calling user during the incoming call to make the determination that the calling user of the incoming call is the non-preferred user or the preferred user;

wherein the preferred treatment comprises a preferred call waiting indication;

wherein the mobile switching center communicates the default call waiting indication to the mobile user for an incoming call from a non-preferred user;

wherein the mobile switching center communicates the preferred call waiting indication to the mobile user for an incoming call from a preferred user, wherein the preferred user is a member of the call waiting feature group.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the call waiting feature group comprises a call waiting feature group for the call waiting feature, wherein the mobile switching center cooperates with the mobile communication device to provide an interface to the mobile user that allows the mobile user to assign the one or more members to the call waiting feature group for the call waiting feature.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the interface comprises one or more of a voice interface, a dual tone multi frequency (DTMF) interface, a graphical interface, a keypad interface, and a touchpad interface.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile switching center queries a subscriber database to make the determination that the calling user is the preferred user or the non-preferred user.

6-9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the call waiting feature comprises a default call waiting period, wherein the preferred treatment comprises a preferred call waiting period that is longer than the default call waiting period;

wherein the mobile switching center communicates the preferred call waiting indication to the mobile user over the preferred call waiting period if the calling user is the preferred user;

wherein the mobile switching center communicates the default call waiting indication to the mobile user over the default call waiting period if the calling user is the non-preferred user.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the mobile switching center cooperates with the mobile communication device to provide an interface to the mobile user that allows the mobile user to assign the preferred call waiting indication and the default call waiting indication.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the mobile switching center increases a duration of the preferred call waiting indication based on the determination that the calling user of the incoming call is the non-preferred user or the preferred user.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the mobile switching center cooperates with the mobile communication device to provide an interface to the mobile user that allows the mobile user to input a selected duration;

wherein the mobile switching center increases the duration of the indication by the selected duration.

14. (previously presented) A method, comprising the steps of:

identifying a calling user of an incoming call to a mobile user as one of one or more members of a user-defined feature group for a call waiting feature based on a DTMF digit pattern received from the calling user during the incoming call, wherein the call waiting feature comprises a default call waiting indication and a preferred call waiting indication;

communicating the default call waiting indication to the mobile user if the calling user is a non-preferred user;

communicating the preferred call waiting indication to the mobile user if the calling user is a preferred user.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of identifying the calling user of the incoming call to the mobile user as one of the one or more members of the user-defined feature group for the call waiting feature comprises the steps of:

receiving the incoming call from the calling user for a mobile communication device of the mobile user;

making a determination that the calling user of the incoming call is the preferred user or the non-preferred user.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of making the determination that the calling user of the incoming call is the preferred user or the non-preferred user comprises the steps of:

querying a subscriber database for the user-defined feature group;

comparing an identifier of the calling user with the user-defined feature group to determine if the user-defined feature group comprises the identifier.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
receiving one or more inputs from a mobile user of the mobile communication device to
assign the one or more members to the user-defined feature group;
storing the user-defined feature group in the subscriber database.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
obtaining one or more inputs from the mobile user to assign one or more call waiting
indications to the call waiting feature;
communicating the one or more call waiting indications based on the determination that
the calling user of the incoming call is the non-preferred user or the preferred user.

19. (previously presented) An article, comprising:

one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media; and

means in the one or more media for identifying a calling user of an incoming call to a mobile user as one of one or more members of a user-defined feature group for a call waiting feature based on a DTMF digit pattern received from the calling user during the incoming call, wherein the call waiting feature comprises a default call waiting indication and a preferred call waiting indication;

means for communicating the default call waiting indication to the mobile user if the calling user is a non-preferred user;

means for communicating the preferred call waiting indication to the mobile user if the calling user is a preferred user.

20. (previously presented) The article of claim 19, wherein the means in the one or more media for identifying the calling user of the incoming call to the mobile user as one of the one or more members of the user-defined feature group for the call waiting feature comprises:

means in the one or more media for receiving the incoming call from the calling user for the mobile communication device; and

means in the one or more media for querying a subscriber database to make a determination that the calling user of the incoming call is the preferred user or the non-preferred user.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of performing the call waiting feature on the incoming call from the calling user comprises the steps of:

receiving an incoming call at a mobile switching center, wherein the incoming call is for a mobile communication device on a pre-existing call;

querying a subscriber database for a call waiting feature group;

receiving the call waiting feature group;

determining that the calling user is a member of the call waiting feature group;

communicating a preferred call waiting indication to the calling user;

placing the pre-existing call on hold;

connecting the incoming call with the mobile communication device; and

disconnecting the incoming call and reconnecting the pre-existing call to the mobile communication device.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mobile switching center receives the DTMF digit pattern during a voicemail prompt or busy signal.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of identifying the calling user of the incoming call comprises the step of:

receiving the DTMF digit pattern during a voicemail prompt or busy signal.